

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 20, 2007. Claims 6 and 7 are currently pending in the application. Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of Claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over US Patent No. 6,599,035 (Ichinokawa) in view of US Patent No. 5,748,934 (Shimazaki) and further in view of JP 2000194025 (Iwasaki).

Turning to the specific language of the claim, independent Claim 6 is directed to an imaging system comprising, a holding unit holding an image picking-up device that receives light from a subject and generates a signal, a motor configured to drive a driven member, the motor being arranged to overlap with the holding unit as viewed from the subject side, closer to the subject side than the holding unit and movable relatively to the holding unit in the direction of an optical axis, and a bar-shaped guide member guiding a guided member, the guide member being arranged to overlap with the holding unit as viewed from the subject side, closer to the subject side than the holding unit and movable relatively to the holding unit in the direction of the optical axis, wherein the holding unit includes an overhang portion holding the image picking-up device in the direction of the subject side on the optical axis, and the motor and the guide member are arranged so as to avoid the overhang portion in the direction perpendicular to the optical axis when the motor and the guide member come relatively close to the holding unit.

The Office Action alleges that Ichinokawa discloses “the motor” of Claim 1 as lens drive motor 23. However, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s assertions, in particular, lens drive motor 23 of Ichinokawa is not “movable relatively to the holding unit in the direction of an optical axis”. As disclosed in Ichinokawa, “a reversible step motor (lens drive motor) 23 is fixed to a rear surface of a rear wall 21a of the support frame 21” (Col. 4, line 12-13,

Ichinokawa). In addition, as shown in Figure 1 of Ichinokawa, the support frame 21 is positioned inside lens case 1 and is fixed to the lower right corner of the lens case 1 (Col. 4, line 9-11, Ichinokawa). In this regard, lens drive motor 23 does not move relatively to the rear wall 1a of lens case 1. As such, Ichinokawa is not seen to disclose, *inter alia*, “a motor... movable relatively to the holding unit in the direction of an optical axis”.

The other applied art, namely Shimazaki, is also not seen to disclose the above-noted features of Claim 6. Shimazaki is not seen to disclose a stepper motor 21 and the lead screw 10 “movable relatively to the holding unit in the direction of an optical axis”. Rather, Shimazaki merely teaches that the moving lens frame 11 moves parallel to the optical axis (Col 3, line 27-31, Shimazaki).

While Claims 6 is rejected over Ichinokawa, Shimazaki and Iwasaki, the rejection based on Iwasaki is not seen in the Office Action. Nonetheless, Iwasaki, is also not seen to teach the above-noted features of independent Claim 6. In particular, Motor 8 of Iwasaki is not seen to be “movable relatively to the holding unit in the direction of an optical axis.”

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied arts, namely Ichinokawa, Shimazaki, and Iwasaki, either alone or in combination, are not seen to render Claim 6 obvious. Therefore, Claim 6 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner’s earliest convenience. In addition, dependent Claim 7 is depended from allowable base Claim 6 discussed above and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact
Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

11/19/07

/Trevor Chuang/

Date

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